

United States Government

Department of Energy

Memorandum

DATE: DEC 3 1990

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DP-1:Claytor:6-2177SUBJECT: Reaction to Newsweek Article

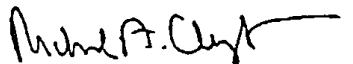
TO: Steve May, S-1

Per your request, attached is material pertaining to the recent article in Newsweek alleging that Iraq obtained advice on developing nuclear weapons from DOE laboratories during a 1989 Symposium in Portland, Oregon.

I have reviewed the material, as has my staff in DP-30, and have determined that no classified information relating to nuclear weapons applications was obtained by the Iraqis from DOE sources at the Symposium.

Dr. Everet Beckner also reviewed the attached documents and concurs with this finding. Further, Ev Beckner reviewed the papers presented at the conference devoted to the science and technology of combustion and detonation. Among the topics presented in these papers were multi-point initiation by a group of Chinese, interaction of detonation waves with solid material interfaces by a French group and several papers on properties of insensitive high explosives. In a nutshell, the conference was the place to be in September 1989 if you were a potential nuclear weapon proliferant.

A draft response to query and a copy of the attached Q's and A's have been forwarded to the Office of Public Affairs for review.


Richard A. Claytor
Assistant Secretary for
Defense Programs